



University of Nevada  
School of Medicine

# Pediatric Telemedicine Group SP Encounter for Block 1 Medical Students

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## INTRODUCTION

This project was stimulated by two recent changes within our institution;

- 1) A new integrated curriculum, teaching basic science concepts within a clinical context, and
- 2) Project ECHO<sup>1</sup>, a new model of health care education capable of delivering "health care without walls"<sup>2</sup> to rural communities.

To start Block 1 of the new curriculum, we wanted to go beyond paper cases to incorporate telemedicine and pediatrics concepts into sessions on phenytoin toxicity.



## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Each week the 1st year medical students are exposed to a new case incorporating both basic science and clinical science components. This session on phenytoin toxicity enabled the learners to do more than develop written history questions for an imaginary patient, by speaking directly to the 11 year-old patient and her mother. Students were told they were going to interview a patient in a rural community. Ten students were chosen to collectively take the patient's history. The class was connected via videoconference with 2 trained SPs in a mock clinical setting. Most of the questions were asked directly of the child. Mother contributed to the conversation as needed. Eventually, the dialogue was opened up to the entire class. When the learners were ready to progress to the physical exam, the videoconference session concluded.



## OUTCOMES

69 students and a focus group of observing faculty were present in one classroom. 100% of respondents believed they had participated in a real telemedicine experience. On consecutive days they reconvened without the patient. The clinical vignette was used to highlight common adverse effects of this drug and the difficulties in dosing children with phenytoin.

## CONCLUSION/DISCUSSION

When the students learned that the encounter had been a simulation, they were incredulous. One felt he had been duped. That was the only criticism. Otherwise, the learners and observing faculty were so pleased and impressed with the pilot, that plans are being made to incorporate this novel approach to multiple cases throughout the semester. Additionally, this project was a breakthrough in incorporating children into the standardized patient program. As a result, we have 2 new standardized patients, ages 10 and 11.

## REFERENCES

- 1) N Engl J Med. 2011 Jun 9;364(23):2199-207. doi: 10.1056/NEJMoa1009370. Epub 2011 Jun 1.
- 2) Health Aff May 2011 10.1377/hlthaff.2011.0278.